

DETAILED ACTION

Claims Allowed

Claims 11 – 43 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to show or make obvious the claimed combinations of elements particularly the limitations as set forth in independent claims 1, 24, 28 and 38 as well their dependent claims which recite features not taught or suggested by the prior art. Independent claim 1 recites the claim limitations, a device for cleansing wounds having a wound cover configured to be positioned over at least a portion of a wound; a cleanser positioned between the wound and the wound cover; the cleanser selectively removes materials that are deleterious to wound healing from fluid containing wound exudate; an inlet for introducing fluid into the wound cover; an outlet for removing fluid from within the wound cover; a recirculation path comprising one or more conduits fluidly connecting the outlet to the inlet; and a moving device for moving fluid containing wound exudate from the wound and to the cleanser and for moving cleansed fluid from the cleanser back to the wound through the recirculation path. Independent claim 24 recites the claim limitations, positioning a wound dressing over a wound, the wound dressing comprising a backing layer, so that the backing layer forms a seal around at least a portion of a wound; removing fluid containing wound exudate from the wound;

cleansing the wound exudate beneath the wound dressing; and returning the cleansed fluid to the wound. Independent claim 28 recites the claim limitations a conformable wound dressing comprising a backing layer capable of forming a seal over at least a portion of the wound; a film configured to define a space beneath the backing layer and an upper surface of the film; a filter configured to be positioned between the wound and the backing layer, the filter configured to retain wound exudate in the space between the film and the backing layer; and an outlet tube for communicating with a vacuum source and applying vacuum to the wound to draw wound exudate into the space between the film and the backing layer. Furthermore, independent claim 38 recites the claim limitations: a method for cleansing wounds comprising positioning a wound dressing over a wound, the wound dressing comprising a backing layer that forms a seal around at least a portion of the wound and a film beneath the backing layer defining a space between the backing layer and an upper surface of the film capable of containing wound exudate from the wound; removing fluid from the wound using negative pressure; and filtering at least a portion of said fluid to retain wound exudate in the space defined by the film beneath the backing layer, in combination with the other elements (or steps) of the apparatus and method recited in the claims. The closest prior art was Swanbeck (WO 84/01904) which does not anticipate or render obvious the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to OPHELIA HAWTHORNE whose telephone number is (571)270-3860. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, PATRICIA BIANCO can be reached on 571-272-4940. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Patricia Bianco/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3772

OPHELIA HAWTHORNE
Examiner
Art Unit 3772